



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

January 24, 2022

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Toshio Imai  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Denka Corporation  
780 Third Avenue, 8th Floor  
New York, New York 10017

Mr. Edward D. Breen  
Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
DuPont  
Global Headquarters  
Wilmington - Chestnut Run Plaza  
974 Centre Road  
Wilmington, Delaware 19805

Dear Messrs. Imai and Breen:

I am writing to you both today regarding the Denka manufacturing facility at the Pontchartrain Works site in LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. As former and current chief executive officers of this facility, you are aware of the serious risks posed by the chloroprene emissions resulting from this plant's neoprene manufacturing operations.

During my Journey to Justice Tour in November, I visited St. John the Baptist Parish and heard the concerns voiced by the community. The facility is adjacent to a predominantly African American community. The closest homes are approximately 700 feet away from the facility fence line, and the facility is approximately 1,500 feet from Fifth Ward Elementary, a public school with 514 students. Based on summa canister air sampling conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from October 2, 2019, to September 26, 2020, the annual average for chloroprene was 1.2  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  at the Fifth Ward Elementary School, including some shorter term (24-hour average) spikes as high as 15.3  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

I appreciated your compliance with the EPA's mandate to commence operation of a complete Method 325 fence line monitoring network by January 7, 2022. However, as a parent, I remain extremely concerned about the more than 500 children at the elementary school. I am writing to you today to reiterate what I hope are our shared concerns and expectations regarding the health and well-being of the students.

The EPA expects DuPont and Denka to take other needed action to address community concerns. Both DuPont and Denka should be working to address community concerns and should be receptive to and proposing projects designed to restore to the community some of what it has lost in terms of health, quality of life and general welfare. I strongly urge you to listen to the community's concerns and actively partner with community members to develop and implement community-based projects that reduce risk, increase awareness of local air quality, and ensure children have a safe place in which to learn and grow.

In addition, I am charging the EPA and the Department of Justice to redouble their efforts and seek more timely and concrete relief for this community. I expect progress by both companies to further protect our children and this community.

Sincerely yours,



Michael S. Regan